

**RIPPONDEN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

(N. E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.)

FOR 1957

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ELLAND:

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Ripponden U.D.C.

Medical Officer of Health :

J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(Resigned 31st January, 1957).

NORMAN E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
(Commenced 11th March, 1957).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

NORMAN E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
(To 10th March, 1957).

GLADYS V. BRADSHAW, M.B., B.S., D.Obst.,
R.C.O.G. (Commenced 13th May, 1957).

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor :

J. SHARPLES, C.S.I., A.I.S.E., F.A.B.S.S.

West Riding County Council :

Preventive Medical Services : Health Division 19.

Staff with duties in the Ripponden District.

Divisional Medical Officer : as above (M.O.H.).

Senior Assistant County M.O. and School M.O. and
Medical Officer for Ripponden Maternity and Child
Welfare Clinic :

*GLADYS V. BRADSHAW, M.B., B.S.,
D.Obst.R.C.O.G.

Assistant County Medical Officer and School M.O. :

*D. S. PICKUP, L.M.S.S.A., M.B., B.S.
(Commenced 1st October, 1957).

School Dental Officer :

Vacant.

Health Visitor :

*M. O. FORRESTER, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Tuberculosis Health Visitor :

*B. G. NICHOLL, S.R.N.

Mental Health Social Worker :

*E. C. WROE, S.R.N., R.M.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Mental Health Home Teacher (Qualified) :

*M. H. GRAHAM, B.A.

Midwife :

*A. G. REID, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Queen's Nurse).
(Resigned 4th November, 1957).

*K. M. McCORMICK, S.C.M. (Commenced 30th
October, 1957. Ceased 8th November, 1957).

Home Nurse :

*K. BOTTOMLEY, S.R.N.

Joint Clerical Staff—engaged in all constituent districts of the
Division, viz. Todmorden, Hebden Royd, Hepton, Sowerby
Bridge and Ripponden.

Senior Divisional Clerk : H. MARSHALL, A.C.I.S.

Deputy Senior Divisional Clerk : MISS J. SUTCLIFFE.
MISS P. JACKSON.

MRS. L. BARKER (resigned 31st December, 1957).

MRS. M. REDFERN.

MRS. J. E. SUTCLIFFE.

MISS B. MARSHALL.

MISS M. J. CROWTHER.

T. WALTON.

R. WILD.

MISS C. SHANN (Commenced 25th November, 1957).

Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee :

Consultant Staff :

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon :

W. O. LODGE, M.D., F.I.C.S., F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

Chest Physician :

BERTRAM MANN, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

Orthopaedic Surgeon :

G. HYMAN, M.B., F.R.C.S.

Ophthalmic Surgeon :

P. M. WOOD, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.

*Also have duties in other parts of this division.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council,
Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the eleventh Annual Report since the inception of the scheme of Divisional Health Administration.

Under the Divisional Health Scheme your Medical Officer of Health is also Divisional Medical Officer for the West Riding County Council's local health services and has similar functions in the Borough of Todmorden, the Urban Districts of Sowerby Bridge and Hebden Royd and the Rural District of Hepton. The scheme has led to a closer integration of local authority health services.

The vital statistics show a rise in the birth rate for the second successive year, and it is now at the highest level since 1952. The number of births, however, is still exceeded by the number of deaths and the estimated population has again decreased. The causes of death in the district were predominantly those associated with degenerative conditions and once again acute infectious diseases carried no mortality whatever.

Outbreaks of whooping cough and measles appeared in the early part of the year and spread rapidly amongst the younger members of the community. Whooping cough is frequently a debilitating disease in young children and can be an underlying factor of much chest trouble in later life. It may be modified and in many cases prevented by previous vaccination and this protection, either by itself or combined with diphtheria inoculation, is available under the County Council scheme for all children under the age of four years.

A much more widespread epidemic occurred in the district in September with the arrival of Asian influenza. The schools were affected at an early stage and it spread through the district in a matter of days, affecting the majority of the population. Clinically it was not a severe type of influenza and, although complications did tend to occur in some cases, no deaths from this cause were recorded in Ripponden. A very heavy strain was placed on all the medical services, in particular on the general practitioners. A vaccine was produced by the Ministry of Health to protect doctors and nurses against this type of influenza but supplies were limited and none was available locally until after the epidemic had passed its peak.

Vaccination against poliomyelitis continued throughout the year but vaccine from the British manufacturers remained in short supply. In December, it was decided to extend the priority age groups to include all children between the ages of six months and fifteen years and the programme was to be accelerated by the use of imported Salk vaccine. The position at the end of the year was that of some 11,000 children eligible for vaccination in the division, over 2,000 had been vaccinated and a further 2,000 had been registered. There were no cases of poliomyelitis in Ripponden in 1957.

For the first time in the district, a year has passed without a case of tuberculosis being notified, or a death occurring from this cause. The reduced incidence of tuberculosis has also been reflected in the declining number of reactors found amongst thirteen year old school children, many of whom received a skin test prior to vaccination against the disease. In the area covered by this health division the percentage of reactors has fallen consistently from 55 % in 1949 to only 29% in 1957, indicating that fewer children are being exposed to infection. A further step in tuberculosis control was taken in November when Ripponden came within a "Specified area" and only milk produced from a T.T. herd, or pasteurised or sterilized milk, may now be retailed ; this should still further reduce the opportunities of acquiring infection.

There are, however, many other factors influencing the spread of tuberculosis in the community and much has been done by the abatement of overcrowding and the improvement of housing conditions. Further progress has been made in the course of the year by closing or demolishing a further nineteen unfit dwellings and although no more new houses have been built by the authority, assistance in the form of Improvement Grants has been available for the modernisation of older property in a sound condition.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the Council for their kindness, patience and co-operation and to thank Mr. Sharples, Public Health Inspector and Surveyor, for his kindness and efforts to give me the sanitary circumstances of the area, and indeed to all your officials with whom I made contacts, personal and official.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

N. E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION 1.

Vital Statistics — 1957.

STATISTICS.

Area—13,289 acres.

Population—Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population, mid. 1957—5,070.

Census 1951—5,213.

Number of dwellinghouses—1,908.

Rateable Value—£51,807 (year 1957-8).

Product of a penny rate—£201.

Summary of Vital Statistics.

	Total	M	F	
Live Births— Legitimate Illegitimate	72* 5	43 3	29 2	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 15.2.
Still Births— Legitimate Illegitimate	3 —	3 —	— —	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births— 37.5.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year— Legitimate Illegitimate	1 1	— 1	1 —	Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births)— 26.0.
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age Legitimate Illegitimate	1 —	— —	1 —	
All Deaths	79	44	35	Death Rate per 1,000 of the esti- mated resident population 15.6.

*These figures include births outside the Urban District to mothers usually resident in Ripponden.

Causes of Death in Ripponden U.D.

							1957.	
Cause of Death.							M.	F.
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	6	10
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	9	9
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
20	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	6	9
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
22	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31	Congenital malformation	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
35	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Total, all causes							35	44

Principal Vital Statistics for the year 1957 :

Based on Registrar General's Figures.

	Ripponden U.D.	Sowerby Brge U.D.	Hebden Royd U.D.	Todmorden M.B.	Hepton R.D.	Aggregate W. Riding U.D.	W. Riding Admin. County	England & Wales (Provis- ional Figures)
BIRTH RATE:— (per 1,000 estimated population)	15.2	16.2	12.9	13.3	13.5	16.1	16.6	16.1
DEATH RATES:— (All per 1,000 estimated home population)								
All Causes	15.6	13.6	14.4	15.3	13.3	12.4	11.7	11.5
Infective and parasitic diseases*	—	0.06	0.10	0.11	—	0.07	0.07	* *
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	—	0.11	0.10	0.16	—	0.08	0.08	0.09
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	0.06	—	0.05	—	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cancer	2.17	2.42	1.74	1.98	1.75	1.99	1.87	2.09
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3.16	2.59	1.74	2.09	1.50	2.15	1.95	* *
Heart and circulatory diseases†	7.3	5.01	6.35	6.38	6.25	4.61	4.30	* *
Respiratory Diseases:—† (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	1.18	1.65	1.43	1.43	1.25	1.46	1.37	* *
INFANT MORTALITY:— (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	26.0	27.1	31.7	12.4	—	25.4	26.4	23.0
MATERNAL MORTALITY:— (Deaths of mothers associated with pregnancy or childbirth per 1,000 live and still-births)	—	3.33	—	—	—	0.41	0.51	0.47

* Combined death rate from syphilitic disease, diphtheria, whooping cough, meningococcal infections, acute poliomyelitis, measles and other infective and parasitic diseases, (items 3 to 9 incl. on p. 7).

† Combined death rate from heart disease and other diseases of the circulatory system, (items 18 to 21 incl. on p. 7).

‡ Combined death rate from influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases, excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system, (items 22 to 25 incl. on p. 7).

SECTION II.

General Provision of Health Services.

A. Hospitals.

There is no hospital in Ripponden. Patients requiring hospital treatment are referred as a rule to hospitals under the administration of the Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee (National Health Service). Included in this group are the Halifax General Hospital, Royal Halifax Infirmary, St. John's Hospital (for aged and chronic sick), Northowram Hall Hospital (for Infectious Diseases), Todmorden Fielden Hospital (for long stay medical cases in children), and Todmorden Stansfield View Hospital (for mental defectives).

Maternity beds are now only available at the Halifax General Hospital. Priority in booking is given to abnormal cases, mothers expecting their first child, and mothers with unsatisfactory home conditions.

Special hospitals (e.g. Mental Hospitals, special Orthopaedic Hospitals, Tuberculosis Sanatoria, etc.) outside the Halifax area are available when required ; they are situated in various parts of the so-called " Leeds Hospital Region " which in fact extends into all three Ridings.

B. Ambulance Facilities.

The County Ambulance Service (Divisional Depot at Brighouse—telephone Brighouse 840) covers this district. Arrangements also exist with the Halifax County Borough Health Department for the use of their ambulances for the transfer of patients to and from the hospitals in Halifax.

C. Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at laboratories in Wakefield and Bradford and by the Regional Blood Transfusion Service at Leeds.

D. Issue of Anti-toxin, etc.

Supplies of diphtheria and tetanus anti-toxin are available at the Northowram Hall Hospital and at the Royal Halifax Infirmary for issue to medical practitioners requiring them.

By arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board supplies of tetanus anti-toxin are also kept at the Divisional Health Office,

The Medical Centre, Todmorden, for the use of medical practitioners in the Division. A supply of reagents for diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation is also available free of charge to private practitioners who have undertaken to participate in the West Riding County Council's schemes of immunisation. Poliomyelitis vaccine is also issued, as available, in accordance with the approved arrangements.

SECTION III.

W.R.C.C. PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES.

A. Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Zion Congregational Sunday School, Ripponden, every Tuesday afternoon, and is attended by a doctor and the Health Visitor. An Ante-Natal Clinic similarly staffed is held in the early afternoon of the first Tuesday in every month. A School Clinic staffed by the Health Visitor is held each Tuesday morning.

B. Care of Mothers and Young Children.

Ripponden Ante Natal Clinic.

Number of expectant mothers attending during the year	5
Total Number of attendances	15

Ripponden Child Welfare Centre.

Total number of children who attended during the year	167
Total number of attendances	1189

Home Visiting of Infants.

Total number of live births to Ripponden mothers ...	77
Number of first visits to children under 1 year	74
Total number of visits to children under 1 year	353
Total number of visits to children aged 1—2 years ...	173
Total number of visits to children aged 2—5 years ...	400

Provision of Welfare Foods, etc.

National Dried Milk, cod liver oil, orange juice, etc., are distributed at the Centre and a variety of brands of dried milk and other infant foods are also sold at the Child Welfare Centre for the convenience of mothers.

Care of Premature Infants.

Special equipment and nursing staff is available for use in the home in cases requiring them.

Provision of Maternity Outfits.

These are provided free to mothers preparing for confinement in their own homes.

C. Professional Nursing in the Home.

The West Riding County Council is responsible for both home nursing and midwifery in this area. There is one full-time Home Nurse and one full-time Midwife working in Ripponden and neighbouring parts of the Sowerby Bridge U.D.

Midwifery Service.

Number of home confinements	...	...	...	21
Number of hospital confinements	...	...	...	53

Analgesia.

The Ripponden Midwife is trained in the administration of gas and air analgesia and is provided with the necessary equipment. Analgesia is available to all mothers desiring it subject to satisfactory medical examination by a doctor.

D. Health Visitor.

The duties of the Health Visitor are combined with those of School Nurse. In pursuance of the National Health Service Act the scope of this service includes home visiting for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of children, of persons (including adults) suffering from illness, and of expectant and nursing mothers. The Health Visitor also gives advice in the home as to measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

E. Home Helps.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, the County Council provide domestic help for households "where such help is required owing to the persence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age."

Seven cases were attended in Ripponden during 1957 in the following categories : Aged persons and illness. The total number of hours worked by home helps was 1,456, as compared with 1,772 in 1956.

F. Care and after care.

Special provisions are in operation for the care and after care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or defect, venereal disease, and other illnesses.

G. School Health Service.

Number of schools in district	4
Number of children attending at end of 1957	385
Number of children examined at these schools during 1957	169
This figure being made up as follows :—	
Routine examinations	151
Re-examinations	18
Number of above children referred for treatment	9

H. Immunisation and Vaccination.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, immunisation against diphtheria and vaccination against smallpox and whooping cough may be done either at the clinic or by the family doctor.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of Children in Ripponden who completed a full course of Diphtheria immunisation, 1957.

Began and completed injections 1957 :—

0-1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
21	10	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1

Total 36.

Immunised in previous years, re-treated 1957 :—

0-1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	5	6	1	4	4	—

Total 24.

Number of Children in Ripponden who had completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation at any time to 31.12.57.

Age at 31/12/57	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5/9	10/14	Total under 15
No. immun.	4	30	33	30	57	221	417	792

Whooping Cough Immunisation.

Number of Children in Ripponden who completed a full course of Whooping Cough immunisation, 1957.

Age at final Injection	Under 6 Mths.	6 Mths. to 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	Total
No. Immunised —	1	21	6	—	—	28

Number of children in Ripponden who had completed a course of Whooping Cough immunisation at any time before 31.12.57.

Age at 31-12-57 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1957	1 1956	2 1955	3 1954	4 1953	5 1952	6 1951	Total
No. Immunised	13	30	32	25	40	17	8	165

Vaccination against smallpox.

During the year records were received of the vaccination against smallpox of 30 persons living in the Ripponden area. Of this number 12 were infants under the age of one year.

SECTION IV. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Summary of Notifications received in the year 1957.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.					
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough	43	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	63	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—

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Tuberculosis.

The following table gives at a glance the position regarding tuberculosis in Ripponden in 1957 :—

	Respiratory			Non-Resp.			Ttls.
	M	F	Ttl.	M	F	Ttl.	
No. on Register on 1st January, 1957	9	14	23	3	2	5	28
No. first notified during 1957	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No. of cases restored to register	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No. of cases entered in Register other than by notification	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
No. removed from Register during 1957 :—							
(a) Died	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Removed from district	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
(c) Recovered	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No. remaining on Register 31.12.57 ...	10	14	24	3	2	5	29

SECTION V.

Sanitary Circumstances.

Number of Houses in district 1908

Water Supply.

Source of supply—Springs. Distributed by Ripponden U.D.C.

No. of dwellinghouses on public supply (direct to houses) 1419

No. of dwellinghouses not on public supply 489

The main supply is from the Council's small reservoir which is fed from an underground spring.

Examination of supplies.

Number of examinations made during year :—

(a) Chemical—2. Results Satisfactory.

(b) Bacteriological—2. Results Satisfactory.

No supplies have been restricted or closed during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Sewer extensions during 1957—None.

Details of any portion of district still requiring :—

(a) Sewering—Wall Nook and Krumlin areas.

(b) Improvement of defective sewers—Nil.

Number of houses not connected to sewers 465

(No sewer available—isolated parts of district).

Nuisance Inspections.

There were two nuisances found in 1957 which required abatement. Informal notices were served and complied with.

Closet Accommodation.

No. of privies	...	...	...	...	...	...	168
No. of pail or tub closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Waste water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
No. of pedestal water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	1670
							<hr/>
Total number of closets in Districts	...	...	...	...	...	...	1878
Percentage of closets on water carriage system	...	...	...	...	...	...	88.92
No. of privies converted in 1957 to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
No. of closets, other than Privies converted during 1957 to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

Grants are made by the Council for conversion of privies, waste water closets and pails to W.C. system.

